



Tempe Fire Department gets heavy rescue truck

For the first time, the Tempe Fire Department has a special operations squad vehicle – also known as a heavy rescue truck – to allow for responses to major events locally and statewide. A federal Homeland Security grant has allowed Tempe to purchase a heavy rescue truck and its associated equipment, which together are worth \$1 million.

The vehicle accommodates three hazmat technicians and three technical rescue technicians. It will allow the department to respond to emergencies such as collapsed buildings, high-angle rescues, confined-space rescues and water rescues. The vehicle will enable fire professionals to remain on the scene of a major emergency for several days.

"We signed up to get it in order to better protect and respond to citizen needs," said Mike Reichling, Senior Fire Inspector/Investigator and the department's Public Information Officer.



Transportation and affordable housing vital to Tempe

By City Councilmember Shana Ellis

Here is a scary question for Tempe homeowners: could you afford to purchase your home again if you had to pay its current worth in today's market?

Too many of you would say no – and then you might breathe a sigh of relief that you purchased years ago when home values were not as inflated as they are today. Now imagine being a new buyer, looking at home prices and feeling that you'll never afford to buy in Tempe. You have a steady job, you're raising a family – why shouldn't you be able to live in the center of the Valley, taking advantage of the great quality of life Tempe offers?

As chair of the Tempe City Council's Transportation and Affordable Housing Committee, I am determined to find answers to this increasing problem. Vice Mayor Hut Hutson serves on the committee with me and we have a proactive work plan to address affordable housing and transportation issues in Tempe.

Tempe oversees 1,084 federally-subsidized rental units and has a waiting list of 2,000 people who want to live in them. We lack workforce housing that would enable folks like teachers, police officers, and hotel and restaurant workers to live in the city where they work.

But there is new hope and the possibility for great progress. For the first time, Tempe has a formal Affordable Housing Strategy that addresses the full spectrum of housing needs, including ensuring there are enough rental units, preserving existing housing stock, and providing opportunities to first-time homebuyers. We also have joined with nonprofit organizations like Newtown Community Development Corporation to provide homeownership opportunities in our single-family neighborhoods – homes that will remain affordable in perpetuity.

We must find new sources of funding and be creative in finding solutions. Developers should continue to come forward with projects that incorporate affordable housing. And, importantly, all of these solutions must be transparent and fully integrated into the Tempe community.

Transportation may seem like a completely dissimilar topic to tackle in the same committee as affordable housing, yet they are services any community must provide. I am proud to say Tempe is a leader in the area of transportation, with a successful bus program, Arizona's first light rail line on the way late next year, and 165 miles of bikeways. We have successfully implemented a free bus pass program for youth who live in Tempe. The Tempe Transportation Center opens at Fifth Street and College Avenue in spring 2008 and will feature sustainable elements like a living roof. The East Valley Bus Operations and Maintenance Facility, operated by Valley Metro and the cities of Tempe and Scottsdale, will open in August at Rio Salado Parkway and Priest Drive. Both facilities will be federally certified "green buildings."

Our committee will stay in tune with residents' transportation needs as new possibilities are presented. Discussions are continuing about the proposed expansion of the city's Neighborhood Circulator program, for example, and it is vital that all residents are heard on the issue.

Whether it's about affordable housing or transportation, if you have an issue, a concern or an idea, I want to hear from you. Please feel free to call me at City Hall at 480-350-8813 or e-mail me at shana_ellis@tempe.gov. With your participation, we can ensure that Tempe continues to travel in the right direction on these two vitally important issues.

Gene Autry Courage Awards

Four remarkable individuals from the world of sports were recognized March 19 at the 14th annual Gene Autry Courage Awards Banquet, held at The Buttes Marriott Resort. Each year, outstanding men and women who have conquered disabilities or hardships are honored with awards named for legendary cowboy and sportsman Gene Autry.

Beverly Kearney, Anthony Robles, Mark Fields and Joe Garagiola were recognized at this year's event, which raised more than \$50,000 for local charities:



Beverly Kearney was injured in a traffic accident in 2002, which damaged her spinal cord and caused paralysis. After several surgeries and extensive rehabilitation, she returned to coaching the University of Texas women's track and field program. Kearney was named the 2006 U.S. Track & Field and Cross Country Coaches Association National Women's Indoor Coach of the Year. Before coaching, Kearney attended Auburn University where she claimed two AIAW All-America honors and was selected the Auburn Athlete of the Year and team MVP as a senior.



Mark Fields played college football for Washington State University and was selected in the first round of the 1995 NFL draft by the New Orleans Saints. In 2003, after switching to play with the Carolina Panthers, Fields learned he had Hodgkin's disease. Though forced to sit the season out, he served as an inspiration to the team, which played in Super Bowl XXXVIII. Fields returned to play in the 2004 NFL season and learned before the 2005 season that the

disease had returned. Today, Fields aims to return to the field and the game he loves.



Anthony Robles was born with one leg but has already used his 17 years to achieve remarkable feats. He became the first disabled wrestler to win a title at the National High School Coaches Association national championships – while maintaining a 3.5 GPA in high school. Robles now wrestles for Arizona State University, where he is studying business. In July 2006, he was nominated for an ESPY Award as “Best Male Athlete with a Disability.” Robles

would like to become a sports agent and wants to compete in mixed martial arts.



Joe Garagiola was recognized with the Gene Autry Achievement Award. He joined the St. Louis Cardinals as a catcher in 1946 and earned a World Series ring in his rookie season. Garagiola played nine seasons in the Major Leagues, retiring in 1954. After baseball, he became a broadcaster and television personality, covering games for radio and TV. In 1991, Garagiola was inducted into the Broadcasters Wing of the National Baseball Hall of

Fame. Today, he spreads the word about the dangers of smokeless tobacco as National Chairman of Oral Health America's National Spit Tobacco Education Program.

Volunteer appreciation luncheon

City of Tempe volunteers and the city staffers who appreciate their work gathered April 4 for the 22nd Annual Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon and Awards at the Fiesta Inn. The event salutes those who volunteered at least 50 hours in the last calendar year and youth who volunteered at least 25 hours within the academic school year.

Mayor Hugh Hallman and the City Council attended and recognized outstanding volunteers in several categories. In 2006, Tempe's nearly 4,000 volunteers contributed 112,011 hours to the city. They assist in many areas of the city, with jobs like ushering at Diablo Stadium during spring training, tutoring elementary school children, entertaining the community at free symphony performances and responding to residents who have experienced traumatic events.

“Volunteering is a great way to get involved in the community and influence what's happening,” said Mary Anna Bastin, Coordinator of Volunteer Resources.

To become a volunteer for the City of Tempe, visit www.tempe.gov/volunteer or call 480-350-5091.

City Council Budget Review

A schedule has been set for the City Council's review and approval of the 2007-2008 City of Tempe budget. All meetings are open to the public and are held in the Council Chambers, located in the garden level of City Hall at 31 E. Fifth St. The times and topics are:

May 3 – 6 p.m. – Budget Review Session

May 17 – 7:30 p.m. – Adoption of tentative operating budget. Public hearing and final adoption of Capital Improvement Program.

May 31 – 7:30 p.m. – Final operating budget adoption. First public hearing for property tax ordinance.

June 14 – 3 p.m. – Final property tax adoption.

Kiwanis Tennis Center serves up excellence for players at all levels



James, left, and his mom, Lancy, on the court at Kiwanis Tennis Center

James Carr of Tempe showed a special interest in tennis at a young age. The 14-year-old's earliest memory of the game was trying to hit tennis balls out of the court at age 7.

"He would watch tennis on TV with me and would pick up on patterns," said his mom, Lancy Carr. "His mind just worked that way."

James, a freshman at Marcos de Niza High School, has had a good mentor. His mother has worked as a tennis instructor at Kiwanis Tennis Center for seven years, where she teaches all levels in the junior program.

Ranked No. 2 in tennis at Marcos, James also is No. 14 in his age group in the Southwest region of the United States Tennis Association. Lancy said his success can be attributed to the quality instruction, practice and competitive play he has received at Kiwanis.

"Just the fact that my son came from a city program and never attended an academy or had a big-name coach shows you can still do well through hard work," she said.

Kiwanis Tennis Center Director Chris Brewer agrees that city programs are designed to grow players as much as possible. And, whereas promising players in other parts of the country must pay to train at private clubs during the winter, the Valley's climate makes it possible to train year-round.

"We have so many players here who have been here for years because the program is designed for all levels," Brewer said. "The great thing about our tennis program is you can start out as a beginner and work your way up and we'll have a program for you. I don't think every program can say that."

As for his future, James wants to play tennis in college and is interested in the culinary field. No matter where his future leads, Lancy hopes he retains the same passion for tennis that he has today.

"I'm just happy that he has learned to love the game like I do," she said.

For information about Kiwanis Tennis Center programs, visit www.tempe.gov/tennis or call 480-350-5702.



Painting the "A"

It is strange to think that many years ago there was a "T" on Hayden Butte where the letter "A" now sits. The "T" was symbolic of Tempe and Tempe State Teachers College.

Today's gold "A," symbolic of Arizona State University, measures 55 feet by 60 feet and was built in 1955 of concrete and steel. Layers of paint – too many to count – have since coated the "A" and added to its dimensions.

As years passed, rival schools began painting their colors on ASU's "A" to show their school pride and hopes for victory. Today, students attempt to guard the "A" around the clock before big events like ASU's annual football game against the University of Arizona.

It also has become a tradition for outside organizations and campus groups to seek permission from the ASU Alumni Association to paint over the "A" for specific celebrations or events.

"The 'A' is repainted at the beginning of the school year," said Tim Desch, director of the Alumni Association. "It has been a tradition for many years to paint the 'A' white to mark a new start, and then 48 hours later to paint it gold."

It takes 10 gallons of paint to cover the "A," Desch added.

**Fourth of July celebration
at Tempe Town Lake!**
www.tempe4th.com

Calendar

City Council Meetings

The May/June schedule
for Tempe City Council meetings

May 3

6 p.m., Issue Review Session
7:30 p.m., Council Meeting

May 17

6 p.m., Issue Review Session
7:30 p.m., Council Meeting

May 31

6 p.m., Issue Review Session
7:30 p.m., Council Meeting

June 28

6 p.m., Issue Review Session
7:30 p.m., Council Meeting

Meetings are aired live on Tempe 11
and the Internet at
www.tempe.gov/tempe11.

City Council meetings are held in
the Council Chambers at City Hall,
31 E. Fifth St. Agendas are posted
24 hours before each meeting outside
the Council Chambers and on the
second floor of City Hall. Meetings are
subject to change. Confirm dates and
times with the City Clerk's Office,
480-350-8241 or on the Web site at
www.tempe.gov/clerk.

Tempe City Council

Hugh Hallman, Mayor

Hut Hutson, Vice Mayor

P. Ben Arredondo, Councilmember

Barbara J. Carter, Councilmember

Shana Ellis, Councilmember

Mark W. Mitchell, Councilmember

Onnie Shekerjian, Councilmember

Will Manley, City Manager

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News you can use

Tips for maintaining alleys

Tempe has more than 165 miles of unpaved alleys and, by city code, property owners are responsible for taking care of the alley space directly behind their homes, which is from the property line to the center of the alley. The City of Tempe provides weed control services in alleys at least twice a year. Alleys between Southern Avenue and the south city limits are done in April and November, while those from Southern Avenue to the north city limits are done in May and December. Tips for maintaining alleys include: sealing all garbage, loose trash, grass and pet waste in plastic bags and placing in a container; removing all weeds and debris from your property line to the center of the alley; and placing brush and bulky items neatly along your wall or fence no more than 10 days prior to scheduled collection weeks. Visit www.tempe.gov/recycling/uncontained.htm for your collection week. Tempe residents have free monthly dump privileges at Sky Harbor Transfer Station, located north of University Drive on 40th Street in Phoenix. Call 480-350-8131 to learn more.

Tempe offers array of summer camps for kids

The weather is heating up and it's time for kids to make plans for the long summer. Several themed summer camps offered throughout Tempe are designed for fun and learning.

The Boys and Girls Club of the East Valley is offering two day camps at the North Tempe Multi-Generational Center and the Westside Community Center. Call 480-858-6520 and 480-858-2400, respectively, for more information.

These next day camps are offered at Kiwanis Recreation Center.
Call 480-350-5201 for more information:

Water Sports camp

Campers will learn how to row, kayak, and paddle a dragon boat and an outrigger canoe. Additional activities include a nature hike in Papago Park and a session on water safety.

Robotics camp

Build and take home your own Rocket Robot. Learn about the many gears, circuit board, microphone, and the easy-to-assemble mechanical drive system.

CSI camp

Learn about forensics, crime scene investigations and crime lab chemistry, performing experiments and searching for evidence.

Make it and Take it Home camp

Create and take home an assortment of toys designed to teach science concepts. Grow and take home a crystal tree, and make a lava lamp, silly putty, glowing goo and ice cream.

Can You Dig It? camp

Discover an actual dinosaur bone and a 500-million-year-old trilobite and learn how to use a geological time and fossil chart. Identify ancient sharks' teeth and mammal bones, and make plaster replicas of a bear tooth and Tyrannosaurus Rex tooth.

Household hazardous waste disposal

Tempe residents can take advantage of the city's Household Products Collection Center each week on Fridays and Saturdays. It's a safe, free way to dispose of harmful chemicals. Call 480-858-2223 or visit www.tempe.gov/HHW for hours and information.